

## GLHA Spring and Summer visits 2023

Two visits were organised for GLHA members during 2023.

### **The Special Collections Library at the University of Gloucestershire's Hardwick campus in Cheltenham**

Two different groups of 10 people visited the Library in the morning and afternoon of Monday 17 April. As well as the University's own Archive (including those of its constituent Colleges, dating back to the mid-19th century), the Library holds a number of other collections relating to literature, poetry and printing, plus the Independent Television News (ITN) image archive and the extensive library of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. The visit was hosted by the University's Special Collections Archivist, Louise Hughes, who described the various collections held in the Library and gave those attending the opportunity to see a number of rare books from the Archaeological Society's Library, which was then open for browsing.

### **Chipping Sodbury walk**

The second - somewhat blustery! - visit was an afternoon walk around Chipping Sodbury, led by Dr John Chandler, on Sunday, 11 June. This took those attending along the length and breadth of the town's particularly attractive High Street, with its range of buildings from medieval onwards, as well as down to some rather more 'hidden' corners close to the River Frome. The walk was greatly enhanced by John's provision of a historic map of the town, which enabled us to appreciate how much the present townscape reflects its origins as a classic medieval planted town, with its distinctive burgage plots. Our visit coincided with the town's annual Festival (which included a 'rival' walking tour of the town, organised by the Sodbury and District Historical Society, which we did our best not to get tangled up with!) and also provided the unexpected opportunity to see inside the town's medieval parish church.

